

**National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Statistical Office**

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

717-787-3904

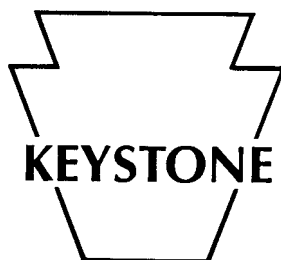
Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

NASS

USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - - - providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture



Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually.

Released: Early March 2005

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 05 No. 05

**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

Farm Labor
Honey
Agricultural Prices
Cold Storage
Trout Production
Annual and Monthly Poultry

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

HONEY PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania honey production in 2004 (from producers with five or more hives) totaled 1,620,000 pounds, up 20 percent from 2003. There were an estimated 30,000 colonies statewide, up 3,000 from last year. The average yield was 54 pounds per colony. The average yield per colony was 50 pounds in 2003. Total stocks of honey, as of December 15, 2004, were 810,000 pounds, 93 percent more than the previous year.

Honey producers in Pennsylvania received an average price of 138 cents per pound for the 2004 crop. Total value of honey produced in 2004 is estimated at 2,236,000 dollars for Pennsylvania production. Pennsylvania ranks 23rd in the nation for honey production.

A sample of honey producers were contacted in December 2004 for information on number of colonies, honey production, honey stocks on hand for sale, and prices received for honey sold during 2004.

Nationally, honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. The yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

**HIRED WORKERS DOWN 12 PERCENT,
WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 749,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

**FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE
RATES, WEEK OF January 9-15, 2005 ¹**

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	18	574
Expected to be Employed . . .		
150 Days or More	14	478
149 Days or Less	4	96
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired	33.7	36.8
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	9.66	9.81
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined . . .	8.62	8.91
Field	8.47	8.73
Livestock	8.76	9.19

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005 ¹	Feb 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	3.10	2.32	2.22	2.61	2.12	2.02
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.67	3.27	3.24
Oats	Bu.	2.08	⁵	⁵	1.58	1.64	1.58
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.73	2.42	2.48
Hay, Dry All	Ton	127.00	127.00	113.00	81.20	84.20	84.70
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	150.00	155.00	138.00	85.10	90.90	91.90
Dry Other	Ton	121.00	116.00	106.00	72.10	70.60	70.00
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.196	.230	.220	.300	.216	.208
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.35	8.65	9.05	5.87	5.59	5.44
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	46.00	50.10	51.90	46.00	50.50	52.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	76.20	84.90	84.50	82.30	94.40	93.80
Calves	Cwt.	115.00	115.00	116.00	111.00	125.00	128.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	44.40	44.70	44.20	43.00	53.50	50.70
Sows	Cwt.	33.00	53.00	51.60	34.60	45.60	45.50
Eggs ³	Doz.	.780	.380	.360	.745	.373	.358
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	15.30	17.90	-	13.60	15.90	15.40
Manufactured Grade ..	Cwt.	12.70	14.70	-	12.80	14.90	14.80
All	Cwt.	15.30	17.90	16.80	13.60	15.90	15.40
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,600.00	-	-	1,620.00	

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

FEBRUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 2 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January index. The Crop Index is up 5 points (5.0 percent) while the Livestock Index is down 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for tomatoes, oranges, broccoli, and celery. Lower prices were received for corn, dairy, hogs, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (2.6 percent) from February 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 117, is 2 points (1.7 percent) above last month but unchanged from February 2004.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 31, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,100,000 bushels on January 31, 2005, compared to 4,850,000 bushels on January 31, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,661,000; Rome with 1,080,000 and Golden Delicious with 1,024,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 214,200,000 pounds on January 31, 2005, compared to 203,693,000 pounds on January 31, 2004. There were no pear stocks in Pennsylvania on January 31, 2005.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JANUARY 2005

Variety	January 31, 2004					January 31, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	3	14	771	551	1,339	2	2	1,007	650	1,661
Stayman	16	2	25	13	56	22	1	46	0	69
Rome	19	59	319	365	762	31	62	630	357	1,080
Red Delicious	88	317	33	107	545	69	244	81	62	456
Golden Delicious	14	117	677	671	1,479	17	120	374	513	1,024
Gala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	11	1	3	20
McIntosh	21	0	21	0	42	2	3	2	11	18
Fuji	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	95	18	33	0	146
Other ²	49	107	364	107	627	54	85	300	187	626
Total	210	616	2,210	1,814	4,850	297	546	2,474	1,783	5,100

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

TROUT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's 44 commercial trout growers sold 1.37 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.22 million during 2004, ranking fifth nationally behind Idaho, North Carolina, California, and Washington. This production was down from the 1.68 million pounds valued at \$4.68 million sold in 2003.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation for the value of trout distributed for conservation and recreational purposes. With an estimated value of \$9.1 million, Pennsylvania accounts for 14.1 percent of the value of the nation's distributed trout. This includes trout released by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. Distributed fish were released by 19 operations in Pennsylvania, but this count excludes cooperative nurseries under contract to state hatcheries. NASS-PA, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.15 million pounds, or 84 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was down 31000,000 lbs. or 21 percent from a year ago. Averaging \$2.90 per pound, compared to \$2.60 last year and \$1.04 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$3.34 million. Fee fishing and recreational sales accounted for 71 percent of the production, and sales to other producers accounted for another 17 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 450,000 fish, or 216,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was up 5,000 lbs. or 2 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$3.80 a pound, unchanged from last year, and \$2.63 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$821,000, with 83 percent of the volume sold to fee fishing and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 190,000 fish, or 5,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 3,000 lbs. or 37 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$355.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$295.00 last year and \$174.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$67 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission and its cooperative nurseries, but also by private fishing clubs, included 5.23 million fish 6-12" long in 2004, compared to 5.15 million fish a year ago.

Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 637,000 fish during 2004, with 47 percent being lost to predators, 25 percent to flooding, another 25% to disease, and 3 percent to various other causes.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

For the **20 selected states**, the total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers during 2004 totaled \$68.7 million, an increase of 7.3 percent from 2003. Nationally, sales of fish totaled \$63.9 million for 2004, while egg sales totaled \$4.83 million. The state of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of trout 12 inches and longer sold during 2004 totaled 47.5 million fish, up 3 percent from the previous year. The value of sales of trout 12 inches and longer for the 2004 marketing year was 57.1 million dollars, up 8 percent from 2003. Based on dollar value, 72 percent were sold to processors and 18 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of 6-12 inch trout sold during 2004 totaled 5.53 million fish, a decrease of 14 percent from 2003. The average price per pound was \$2.63 during 2004, up 13 cents from the 2003 price. The total value of sales was 5.84 million dollars during 2004, up 2 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6-12 inch trout was to fee and recreational establishments with 49 percent of the total sales, followed by government agencies with 15 percent, and sales to other producers at 12 percent.

The number of 1-6 inch trout sold during 2004 totaled 5.55 million, a 25 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$174.00 during 2004, a \$5.00 increase from 2003. The total value of sales was 966 thousand dollars, down 22 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2004 totaled 290 million eggs, up 10 percent from the 264 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2004 was \$16.70, up 90 cents from 2003. The total value of trout egg sales during 2004 was 4.83 million dollars, an increase of 16 percent from the 4.18 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreation purposes, primarily by state and federal hatcheries, included 10.2 million 12 inch or longer fish, 39.8 million 6-12 inch fish, and 75.8 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 64.8 million dollars, up 6 percent from 2003.

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 21.9 million fish during 2004, with 72.8 percent being lost to disease and 12.1 percent lost to flooding. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (74 percent) and predators (17 percent).

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY, PENNSYLVANIA & US, 2003-2004 ¹

Production & Inventory	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2003	2004	2004/03	2003	2004	2004/03
			<i>Percent</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Egg Production (Million)	6,754	6,585	97	87,473	89,131	102
Average Number of Layers (000)	24,518	23,893	97	338,393	342,279	101
Rate of Lay/Layer	276	276	100	259	260	100
December 1 Inventory:						
Hens & Pullets of Laying Age (000)	23,380	23,290	100	340,979	344,278	101
Pullets 13 Weeks Old & Older Not of Laying Age (000)	2,193	²		41,955	²	
Pullets Under 13 Weeks of Age (000)	3,742	²		58,391	²	
Total Pullets (000)	5,935	4,532	76	100,346	101,624	101
Other Chickens (000)	93	110	118	8,439	8,263	98
Total (000)	29,408	27,932	95	449,764	454,165	101

¹ For egg production, marketing year ends November 30. ² Age break-outs are not available due to program change.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2004	Dec 2004	Jan 2005
Layers	Thous.	23,643	23,920	24,484	338,550	345,960	347,739
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,301	2,379	2,336	2,182	2,234	2,188
Eggs Produced	Million	544	569	572	7,386	7,728	7,607
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,935	5,291	5,818	35,350	37,035	36,761
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,642	14,060	14,168	773,970	793,047	796,026
Poult Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	23,273	22,205	21,886

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 2004 was 6.59 billion eggs, 2 percent less than the 6.75 billion produced in 2003. There was an average of 23.9 million layers in Pennsylvania laying flocks during the 12-month period, 2 percent less than the 24.5 million the previous year. Average annual production per layer was 276 eggs, unchanged from 2003.

All chicken inventory (excluding commercial broilers) as of December 1, 2004 totaled 27.9 million, down 5 percent from the 29.4 million one year earlier. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in chicken inventory on December 1, 2004. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in layers on hand December 1, behind only Iowa and Ohio, with 46.6 and 27.9 million, respectively. Commonwealth flocks included 4.5 million pullets less than 20 weeks old, down 24 percent from 2003. There were also 110,000 other chickens, up 18 percent from the inventory on December 1, 2003. The average value per bird on hand December 1, 2004 was \$1.90. The total value of all flocks in Pennsylvania on December 1, 2004 was estimated at 53.1 million dollars, down 5 percent from the 55.9 million dollars in 2003.

Nationally, egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled a record high 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from 2003. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2004 was 260 eggs, up slightly from the 2003 average of 259. The inventory of all chickens in the United States (excluding commercial broilers) totaled 454 million on December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year. The average value of chickens in the nation's flocks on December 1 was \$2.47, down 1 cent from 2003. The total value of the nation's flocks was estimated at 1.12 billion dollars, up slightly from one year ago.

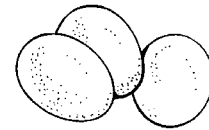
JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during January 2005 totaled 572 million eggs, up 5 percent from January 2004. The total number of layers on hand averaged 24.5 million during January, up 4 percent from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,336 eggs during the month, compared with 2,301 eggs in January 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2005 totaled 5.8 million, 18 percent more than the 4.9 million hatched the previous January. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.2 million during January 2005, up 12 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.61 billion during January 2005, up 3 percent from last year. The total number of layers during January 2005 averaged 348 million, up 3 percent from the previous year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,188 eggs, up slightly from January 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during January totaled 36.8 million, up 4 percent from January 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 796 million, up 3 percent from the previous January. There were 21.9 million turkey poult Placed in the United States during January 2005, down 6 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Statistical Office
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

PRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38